

Environmental Conservation, Department of

Mission

The mission of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment; and to prevent, abate, and control water, land, and air pollution to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State, and their overall economic and social well-being.

Organization and Staffing

DEC is headed by a commissioner appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. DEC's central office is in Albany, with regional offices in Avon, Buffalo, Long Island City, New Paltz, Ray Brook, Schenectady, Stony Brook, Syracuse, and Watertown. Working with DEC headquarters, regional offices review and issue environmental permits for activities regulated by DEC, such as the operation of landfills and sewage treatment plants and to ensure compliance with State and federal environmental statutes.

Budget Highlights

The FY 2024 Executive Budget recommends appropriations of \$2.5 billion for DEC, reflecting a decrease of \$8.1 billion from FY 2023. The decrease is attributable to the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act that was appropriated in FY 2023 and passed by voters in November of 2022. The Executive Budget recommends a workforce level of 3,331 FTEs for DEC, which includes Lake George Park Commission's 9 FTEs. This increase reflects the agency's growing workload in a number of different programmatic areas including the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), clean water infrastructure, implementation of the bond act, and a new extended producer responsibility program included in the Budget.

As co-chair of the Climate Action Council (CAC), DEC played a critical role in the development of the CAC's scoping plan, which was released in December 2022. The scoping plan outlines how New York will achieve and implement its clean energy and climate goals as set forth by the CLCPA. Within the scoping plan the CAC determined that a cap-and-invest program would be the most feasible, efficient, equitable, and affordable method to meet New York's emissions goals. In response to the CAC recommendation, the FY 2024 Executive Budget proposes legislation that establishes a foundation for DEC and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to advance a cap-and-invest program. The program will establish a gradually declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, limit the financial impact to New Yorkers, invest the proceeds in programs that drive emission reductions in an equitable manner, while maintaining the competitiveness of New York's industries.

Major budget actions include:

- \$500 million to support additional investments in clean water projects throughout the State. This is the fifth installment of a commitment to provide an additional \$2.5 billion in support over five years for drinking water infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure, and water quality protection, bringing the State's current clean water investment total to \$5 billion.
- \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The EPF provides funding for critical environmental programs such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, enhanced recreational access, water quality improvement, and environmental justice.
- \$90 million for DEC's New York Works capital program, which funds core environmental infrastructure projects. This funding will allow DEC to repair and maintain state-owned dams, rehabilitate fish hatcheries, improve state campgrounds and make investments in other core infrastructure.
- \$370 million in federal appropriations is included to allow DEC to accept funds from the federal infrastructure bills. This includes \$255 million specifically for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
- The Waste Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would create an extended producer responsibility program for packaging and printed paper. The proposal will define the products and entities covered, establish producer responsibility organizations, and create minimum convenience standards. The intent of this bill is to reduce waste throughout the state as the majority of municipal waste stream is recyclable material.

For more information on this agency's budget recommendations located in the Executive Budget Briefing Book, click on the following link:

[Briefing Book – Environment and Energy \(PDF\)](#)

NYS DOB | FY2024 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations

For more information on this agency's budget recommendations located in the Executive Budget Briefing Book, click on the following link:

Program Highlights

DEC manages a diverse array of programs and activities which are divided into the following programs: Administration; Air & Water Quality Management; Environmental Enforcement; Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources; Forest & Land; Operations; Solid & Hazardous Waste Management; and Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act.

To protect and improve environmental quality, DEC regulates hazardous waste and oversees the cleanup of hazardous waste sites; assists public and private parties in cleaning up contaminated "brownfield" properties; monitors air and water quality and implements air and water pollution control programs; regulates solid waste management; regulates the use of pesticides; oversees chemical and petroleum bulk storage and responds to chemical and oil spills; regulates water withdrawals; and enforces the (ECL).

To conserve natural resources, DEC works to protect fish, wildlife, and marine resources; licenses and educates anglers, hunters, and trappers; promotes forestry; regulates and monitors the extraction of oil, natural gas, solution salt, and hard minerals; encourages the reduction, reuse, and recycling of solid waste; issues permits for various activities that affect the State's air, water, wetlands, mineral, and biological resources; and controls wildland fires.

In addition, DEC coordinates the State's efforts to respond to climate change by providing reliable scientific analysis to support climate policy decisions; developing programs to empower agencies, organizations, and individuals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the effects of unavoidable global warming.

DEC partners with different State agencies, including the Environmental Facilities Corporation to coordinate low-cost financing for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure; the Department of State for coastal management and brownfield opportunity area programs; the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation on recreational activities; and the Adirondack Park Agency to develop long-range land use plans for public lands within the boundary of the Adirondack Park.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available FY 2023	Appropriations Recommended FY 2024	Change From FY 2023	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2024
State Operations	494,080,510	560,202,000	66,121,490	399,067,000
Aid To Localities	1,160,000	1,872,200	712,200	8,517,000
Capital Projects	10,160,600,000	1,955,300,000	(8,205,300,000)	16,948,546,000
Total	10,655,840,510	2,517,374,200	(8,138,466,310)	17,356,130,000

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ALL FUND TYPES
PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM
FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	FY 2023 Estimated FTEs 03/31/23	FY 2024 Estimated FTEs 03/31/24	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	116	116	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	100	100	0
Air and Water Quality Management			
General Fund	213	265	52
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	147	147	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	223	223	0
Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act			
General Fund	0	131	131
Environmental Enforcement			
General Fund	277	278	1
Special Revenue Funds - Other	114	114	0
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources			
General Fund	131	136	5
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	49	63	14
Special Revenue Funds - Other	273	273	0
Capital Projects Funds - Federal	1	1	0
Capital Projects Funds - Other	8	8	0
Forest and Land Resources			
General Fund	285	287	2
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	4	6	2
Special Revenue Funds - Other	95	95	0
Operations			
General Fund	139	139	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	36	36	0
Rehabilitation and Improvement			
Capital Projects Funds - Other	390	390	0
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management			
General Fund	15	36	21
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	49	52	3
Special Revenue Funds - Other	219	219	0
Capital Projects Funds - Federal	4	4	0
Capital Projects Funds - Other	212	212	0
Total	3,100	3,331	231

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STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
General Fund	156,461,510	219,532,000	63,070,490
Internal Service Funds	95,000	95,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	82,198,000	82,198,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	255,326,000	258,377,000	3,051,000
Total	494,080,510	560,202,000	66,121,490
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Special Pay Bill			
General Fund	(14,643,510)		
Appropriated FY 2023	479,437,000		

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STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
Administration			
General Fund	14,848,000	18,469,000	3,621,000
Internal Service Funds	95,000	95,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	17,829,000	17,779,000	(50,000)
Air and Water Quality Management			
General Fund	17,965,000	32,093,000	14,128,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	41,898,000	41,898,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	54,619,000	52,082,000	(2,537,000)
CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS BOND ACT PROGRAM			
General Fund	0	24,000,000	24,000,000
Environmental Enforcement			
General Fund	43,307,745	53,479,000	10,171,255
Special Revenue Funds - Other	31,713,000	32,382,000	669,000
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources			
General Fund	15,072,000	17,935,000	2,863,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28,000,000	28,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	45,559,000	44,929,000	(630,000)
Forest and Land Resources			
General Fund	39,127,765	36,023,000	(3,104,765)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	32,432,000	33,957,000	1,525,000
Lake George Park Commission			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,291,000	2,797,000	506,000
Operations			
General Fund	20,202,000	26,450,000	6,248,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	16,674,000	15,411,000	(1,263,000)
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management			
General Fund	5,939,000	11,083,000	5,144,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	7,300,000	7,300,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	54,209,000	59,040,000	4,831,000
Total	494,080,510	560,202,000	66,121,490

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2024 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	15,011,000	1,621,000	14,678,000	1,600,000
Air and Water Quality Management	25,218,000	9,128,000	25,064,000	9,119,000
CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS BOND ACT PROGRAM	22,000,000	22,000,000	19,620,000	19,620,000
Environmental Enforcement	51,838,000	10,171,255	45,380,000	9,766,255
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	11,204,000	2,857,000	10,661,000	2,823,000
Forest and Land Resources	33,345,000	(3,104,765)	31,382,000	(3,221,765)
Operations	18,351,000	6,248,000	17,707,000	6,214,000
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	10,428,000	5,102,000	10,236,000	5,089,000
Total	187,395,000	54,022,490	174,728,000	51,009,490

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	273,000	19,000	60,000	2,000
Air and Water Quality Management	77,000	6,000	77,000	3,000
CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS BOND ACT PROGRAM	400,000	400,000	1,980,000	1,980,000
Environmental Enforcement	472,000	27,000	5,986,000	378,000
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	475,000	32,000	68,000	2,000
Forest and Land Resources	231,000	16,000	1,732,000	101,000
Operations	454,000	31,000	190,000	3,000
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	178,000	12,000	14,000	1,000
Total	2,560,000	543,000	10,107,000	2,470,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2024 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	3,458,000	2,000,000	800,000	500,000
Air and Water Quality Management	6,875,000	5,000,000	1,790,000	1,250,000
CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS BOND ACT PROGRAM	2,000,000	2,000,000	660,000	660,000
Environmental Enforcement	1,641,000	0	377,000	0
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	6,731,000	6,000	1,003,000	0
Forest and Land Resources	2,678,000	0	540,000	0
Operations	8,099,000	0	3,574,000	0
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	655,000	42,000	102,000	0
Total	32,137,000	9,048,000	8,846,000	2,410,000

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	589,000	500,000	1,490,000	500,000
Air and Water Quality Management	1,359,000	1,250,000	2,402,000	1,250,000
CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS BOND ACT PROGRAM	70,000	70,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Environmental Enforcement	51,000	0	1,169,000	0
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	61,000	0	5,599,000	0
Forest and Land Resources	149,000	0	1,913,000	0
Operations	289,000	0	3,139,000	0
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	21,000	0	526,000	41,000
Total	2,589,000	1,820,000	17,438,000	2,991,000

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Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Administration	579,000	500,000
Air and Water Quality Management	1,324,000	1,250,000
CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND GREEN JOBS BOND ACT PROGRAM	70,000	70,000
Environmental Enforcement	44,000	0
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	68,000	6,000
Forest and Land Resources	76,000	0
Operations	1,097,000	0
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	6,000	1,000
Total	3,264,000	1,827,000

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2024 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	17,874,000	(50,000)	9,190,000	(490,000)
Air and Water Quality Management	93,980,000	(2,537,000)	38,394,000	(3,899,000)
Environmental Enforcement	32,382,000	669,000	14,934,000	512,000
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	72,929,000	(630,000)	30,043,000	(1,243,000)
Forest and Land Resources	38,957,000	1,525,000	19,110,000	1,281,000
Lake George Park Commission	2,797,000	506,000	1,135,000	295,000
Operations	15,411,000	(1,263,000)	3,143,000	(2,210,000)
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	66,340,000	4,831,000	28,169,000	1,741,000
Total	340,670,000	3,051,000	144,118,000	(4,013,000)

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Administration	8,684,000	440,000
Air and Water Quality Management	55,586,000	1,362,000
Environmental Enforcement	17,448,000	157,000
Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	42,886,000	613,000
Forest and Land Resources	19,847,000	244,000
Lake George Park Commission	1,662,000	211,000
Operations	12,268,000	947,000
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management	38,171,000	3,090,000
Total	196,552,000	7,064,000

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AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
General Fund	1,160,000	1,872,200	712,200
Total	1,160,000	1,872,200	712,200

AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
Administration			
General Fund	1,160,000	1,872,200	712,200
Total	1,160,000	1,872,200	712,200

CAPITAL PROJECTS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change	Reappropriations FY 2024
Administration				
Capital Projects Fund	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	50,228,000
Cap Proj Fund - DEC Regular (Auth Bonds)	18,000,000	0	(18,000,000)	17,591,000
Federal Capital Projects Fund	50,000,000	75,000,000	25,000,000	50,000,000
EnCon Capital Misc Gifts	0	0	0	1,000,000
Air Quality - Clean Water/Clean Air 96				
Capital Projects Fund - 1996 CWA (Bondable)	0	0	0	27,691,000
Air Resources				
Clean Air Fund	0	0	0	97,000
Air Resources - EQBA				
Capital Projects Fund - EQBA (Bondable)	0	0	0	8,726,000
Clean Water - Clean Air Implementation				
Clean Water Clean Air Implementation Fund	0	0	0	6,405,000
Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act				
Cap Proj Fund -Clean Water, Air, Green Jobs (Bondable)	4,200,000,000	0	(4,200,000,000)	4,200,000,000
CWCA & Green Jobs Bond Fund	4,200,000,000	0	(4,200,000,000)	4,200,000,000
Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Fund				
Clean Water - Clean Air Bond Fund	0	0	0	105,531,000
Environment and Recreation				
Environmental Protection Fund	400,000,000	400,000,000	0	1,512,117,000
Environmental Protection and Enhancements				

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Environmental Protection Fund	0	0	0	14,844,000
Environmental Quality Bond Act Fund				
Environmental Quality Bond Act Fund - 1986	0	0	0	39,005,000
Environmental Quality Protection Bond Fund				
Environmental Quality Protection Bond Fund	0	0	0	18,979,000
Environmental Restoration - Clean Water/Clean Air 96				
Capital Projects Fund - 1996 CWA (Bondable)	0	0	0	21,309,000
Facilities Maintenance and Operations				
Capital Projects Fund	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	13,603,000
Fish and Wildlife				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	3,545,000
Habitat Conserv & Access	1,500,000	6,500,000	5,000,000	1,043,000
Lands and Forests				
Capital Projects Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	48,383,000
Federal Capital Projects Fund	0	15,000,000	15,000,000	29,018,000
Forest Preserve Expansion Fund	0	0	0	110,000
Marine Resources				
Federal Capital Projects Fund	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	29,234,000
New York Works				
Cap Proj Fund - DEC Regular (Auth Bonds)	90,000,000	90,000,000	0	294,115,000
Operations				
Capital Projects Fund	26,500,000	70,700,000	44,200,000	81,361,000
Federal Capital Projects Fund	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	0
Natural Resource Damages Fund	0	0	0	76,664,000
Financial Security Fund	0	0	0	10,017,000
Pure Waters Bond Fund				
Pure Waters Bond Fund	0	0	0	20,568,000
Recreation				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	844,000
Solid Waste Management				
Capital Projects Fund	4,000,000	4,000,000	0	17,330,000
Federal Capital Projects Fund	0	4,000,000	4,000,000	56,818,000
NY Env Protection and Spill Remediation	21,200,000	21,200,000	0	31,942,000
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management				
Capital Projects Fund - Advances	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	75,704,000
Cap Proj Fund - DEC Regular (Auth Bonds)	0	0	0	360,000
Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	100,342,000
Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund - Authority Bonds	100,000,000	100,000,000	0	332,695,000
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management - EQBA 86				
Capital Projects Fund - EQBA 86 (Bondable)	0	0	0	40,229,000
Water Resources				
Capital Projects Fund	44,400,000	12,400,000	(32,000,000)	78,414,000
Capital Projects Fund - Advances	5,500,000	5,500,000	0	47,976,000

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Cap Proj Fund - State Revolving Fund (Auth Bonds)	55,000,000	60,000,000	5,000,000	162,572,000
Cap Proj Fund - DEC Regular (Auth Bonds)	500,000,000	574,000,000	74,000,000	4,030,864,000
Federal Capital Projects Fund	383,500,000	433,000,000	49,500,000	921,355,000
Water Resources - Clean Water/Clean Air				
Capital Projects Fund - 1996 CWA (Bondable)	0	0	0	40,958,000
Water Resources - EQBA				
Capital Projects Fund - EQBA (Bondable)	0	0	0	2,375,000
Water Resources - PWBA				
Capital Projects Fund - PWBA (Bondable)	0	0	0	126,584,000
Total	10,160,600,000	1,955,300,000	(8,205,300,000)	16,948,546,000

Note: Most recent estimates as of 02/01/2023